

## **Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2006**

1. A conference call was conducted on September 8, 2006 regarding the Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP). The idea for the GRSMMP was identified in the Gulf Alliance Governors' Action Plan, and discussed at Restoration Team meetings leading up to that plan.. The purpose of the call was to kick-off the initiative by getting input from the state leads involved in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance - Coastal Restoration Group. The main objective was to discuss preliminary state ideas about a sediment management master plan for the region – helping to define what it should be, who else in the states should be involved in discussing this further, and preliminary ideas on how to proceed. The meeting agenda is attached. All state contacts were invited to participate in the call, participants are listed below:

- Carl Ferraro - Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resource, State Lands Division
- Woody Woodrow - Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
- Tom Calnan - Texas General Land Office
- Juan Moya - Texas General Land Office
- Robert Seyfarth - Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Randy Runnels - Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Drew Puffer - Gulf of Mexico Program
- Lynn Martin - USACE, Institute for Water Resources
- Jeff Lillycrop - USACE, Engineering Research and Development Center
- Larry Parson - USACE, Mobile District
- Raphael Calderon - The Nature Conservancy

2. After introductions, representatives from the participating states gave a brief summary on their view of the function of the master plan and how it will be used towards sediment management. The main points brought out in the discussion included:

- Sediment is a resource and habitat restoration such as for wetlands and beaches could benefit from a regional approach
  - Matching sediment needs with sediment sources – including coordinating sediment resource use between states.
  - Dealing with issues transcending political boundaries
  - The main goals of regional management should be to support habitat restoration and beach restoration
  - Keeping sediment within its natural system as much as possible
  - The plan should provide context to make informed management decisions; it could include assessment of current practices; understanding of trends in sediment processes and management in the region along the coast
  - Leverage resources from multiple agency programs and projects as much as possible.
- TX in a sediment deficit situation-- is there a way to manage sediment smarter?? Some examples: removing sand from some disposal areas can restore their capacity and make sand

available for areas where needed; GLO long-term plan – use dredged material beneficially; Interagency Coordinating Team for Laguna Madre – DMMP – focus of the group was to avoid and minimize impacts to sea grasses in conjunction w/maintenance dredging; perhaps add to bird islands; upper coast/lower coast differences.

- Sediment is relevant to many types of habitats --wetlands, sea grasses, oyster beds, beaches (habitat, storm protection, recreation)

- Minimize adverse ecological impacts in sediment management. E.g. sand borrow areas and potential impacts on hard bottom outcrops.

- The plan should consider a balance between cost and benefits. Decisions based not so much on economics and but more on environmental services. It should be realized that the sediments belong to the public and have inherent values.

- The plan should include a summary of why we have sediment surpluses and deficits, how our traditional practices exacerbate those, and how the GRSMMP can help us address problems associated with deficits and minimize the negative effects of our current management policies.

- The plan should consider a balance between costs and environmental services to the public. - Provide a technical foundation to help overcome policy constraints

- Conducting beach restoration projects to use appropriate borrow sources and not from areas that may change coastal dynamics.

- Include consideration of the upland sediment systems on the coastal sediment systems, including best managing practices, i.e. erosion prevention (farms, development, etc.)

- Once a project is authorized, there should be flexibility to more effectively address beneficial use practices.

- Inventory of sediment resources needed

- Beneficial uses of other material types such as bridge rubble

- Include consideration of storm restoration/storm damage prevention sediment needs

- Help in decision making –weighing benefits and costs of different sediment mgt decisions for the range of sediment needs

- Include lessons learned from related programs and activities – e.g. Alabama and Texas have been active in regional approaches to sediment management

- Expand into interrelated estuarine and riverine considerations, not just the coastal littoral systems.

- Potential early effort could include development of references and data base information available in the GoMex – way of conducting an inventory – data, literature and information useful in developing sediment budgets; include data sediment sources;

- How to treat suspended sediment loads ?

3. The idea for a GRSMMP mission statement was discussed as a means to help define the product and how to approach developing it. Prior to the conference call a rough draft mission statement was distributed to the group as “food for thought.” A decision was made for the Corps representative to draft a more coherent version of the mission statement and rough outline for the master. The draft will be distributed to the group for comment and input. The final mission statement will be determined during the next conference call.

4. The final topic was how to proceed from this point. The initial intentions were to conduct a workshop in the November timeframe. In light of the other workshops scheduled for October

and November, state representatives were concerned about their ability to support a GRSMMP workshop in November due to travel budget constraints. It was suggested that we set our sights on having a workshop early next calendar year. The group will continue to hold regular conference calls to finalize the mission statement, develop a comprehensive strawman, and identify the appropriate stakeholders to be included in the GSMMP process. States will send Larry Parson names of other contacts who should be included in these discussions. The next conference call is scheduled for October 13, 2006 at 2:00 CST.

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**Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan Conference Call  
(9/8/06)**

**AGENDA**

**Introductions**

**States - view on mission and use of Master Plan (5 minutes each)**

**Stakeholders**

**Master Plan Content**

**How do we proceed from here?**

- Next meeting**
- Master Plan Strawman**
- Workshop**

**Action Items**